

Appln. S.N. 10/807,887
Amdt. dated December 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2006
Docket No. 200208977-1

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REMARKS

The Office Action of September 8, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed. It is submitted that, by this Response, all bases of rejection are traversed and overcome. Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-16 and 24-31 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the present application, including the pending claims, remains as previously allowed by the Examiner. Further, it is submitted that the pending claims remain patentable over the art made of record.

Claims 1-16 and 24-31 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Zappella et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,297,069). The Examiner states that Zappella discloses a method of forming an electronic device having a chamber, wherein the method includes preparing an outer surface of a solidified bifunctional core material (32) in a depression formed in a substrate (10), establishing a layer on the core material to define the chamber, and changing the state of the core material to a fluid and removing it from the chamber. The Examiner further states that the core material can be a low melting point wax.

With respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner because Zappella does not teach a method of forming a chamber in an electronic device (as do the Applicants). Applicants agree that both their claim 1 and the method disclosed in Zappella include the deposition or establishment of at least two layers on a substrate. However, the arrangement of the deposited or established layers is **different**, where one configuration results in the formation of a chamber (i.e., Applicants' claim 1), and the other configuration results in the formation of a planar layer on a substrate surface (i.e., Zappella).

The Examiner is first directed to Fig. 3 of Zappella, which discloses that a support material is applied to the substrate as two separate layers at two separate locations. The first support material layer is applied about the perimeter of a first surface of the

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substrate. The second support material layer is applied to a cavity formed into a second surface of the substrate. (See also Figs. 4A (showing the material in the cavity) and 6A (showing the material about the perimeter); Col. 7, lines 14-17, 64-67; and Col. 8, lines 1-8). Zappella further discloses that a material layer (34) is applied to the first surface (12) of the substrate. The material layer (34) of Zappella is also applied to the support material ((32), having surface (38)) that is deposited about the perimeter of the first surface (12) of the substrate. Zappella illustrates the establishment of the material layer (34) in Figs. 8A and 8B, reproduced below for convenience (see also Col. 9, lines 43-48).

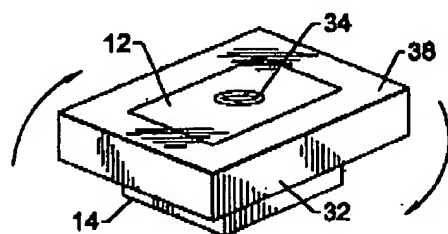


FIG. 8A.

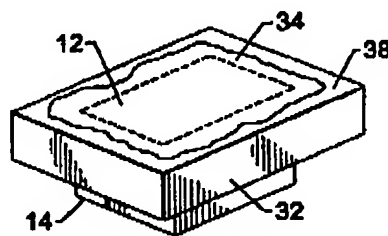


FIG. 8B.

As clearly illustrated in Figs. 8A and 8B, the second surface 14 (having the cavity 16 filled with another layer of support material 32) defined therein **does not have** the additional material layer 34 established thereon. Zappella neither teaches nor suggests that the layer (34) is established on the second surface (14) or on the support material (32) in the cavity (16). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that their invention as defined in claim 1, is distinguishable from Zappella because the material layer of Zappella is not applied on the second surface (14) of the substrate, which has the depression (or cavity 16) defined therein. As shown in the Figures above, the material layer of Zappella is applied to the surface (12) that is opposite to the surface (14) having the cavity defined therein.

This is in sharp contrast to Applicants' invention as defined in claim 1, which recites that the layer is established "on the prepared outer surface of the solidified bifunctional core material and a portion of the substrate surrounding the depression."

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Applicants are clearly establishing the layer (allegedly equivalent to Zappella's material layer 34) on the core material that is located in a depression formed in the substrate.

Applicants further submit that Zappella does not teach or suggest forming a chamber between the substrate and a layer by application of the layer to the core material that is established in a depression of the substrate. The essence of Zappella is that the material layer (34) is applied to the first surface (14) of the substrate and to the support material (32) that is coplanar with the first surface (14) and surrounds the perimeter of the substrate, thereby forming a planar surface on the substrate. This planar surface is clearly not a cavity. (See Col. 3, lines 19-22; Fig. 8B (reproduced above)).

Zappella's planar material layer (34) is in sharp contrast to Applicants' claim 1, which states in part, "Establishing a layer on the prepared outer surface of the solidified bifunctional core material and a portion of the substrate surrounding the depression, the established layer and the substrate defining a chamber." The teachings of Zappella do not apply a material layer to the portion of the substrate surrounding the cavity, nor does it form a chamber.

The Examiner's attention is now directed to rejected claim 24. Claim 24 includes a similar method step as claim 1, which states, "Establishing a layer on the bifunctional core material and the substrate, the layer and substrate defining a sealed chamber therebetween." For all of the reasons and arguments presented above for claim 1, Applicants submit that independent claim 24 is also distinguishable from Zappella.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as defined in independent claims 1 and 24 is not anticipated by the cited reference, either alone or in combination, and patentably defines over the art of record. It is further submitted that Applicants' invention as defined in claims 2-16 and 25-31 are also patentable through their ultimate dependency on one of claims 1 and 24.

In summary, claims 1-16 and 24-31 remain in the application. It is submitted that, through this response, Applicants' invention as set forth in these claims remains in a condition suitable for allowance.

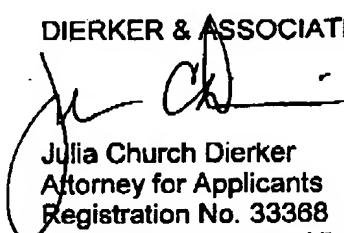
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Further and favorable consideration is requested. If the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, he is cordially invited to contact Applicants' Attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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